

Application Serial Number 10/552,076
Response to Office Action
Dated December 15, 2007

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 1-8 are presently under consideration. Claims 6-8 are new. Claims 1 and 5 are independent claims.

Unless indicated to the contrary, claims are amended for non-statutory reasons, to replace European-style claim phraseology with American-style claim language.

New claims are added to restore at least partially the original range of claims that existed before multiple dependencies were removed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter is added.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of receipt of all certified copies of the priority document(s). Applicants respectfully request the approval of the filed drawings.

Objection to the Specification

Applicants have reviewed the Examiner's objections to the Specification and suggestions regarding headings. However, Applicants respectfully decline to add the headings. Section headings are not statutorily required for filing a non-provisional patent application under 35 USC § 111(a), but per 37 CFR § 1.51(d) are only guidelines that are suggested for applicant's use. (See Miscellaneous Changes in Patent Practice, Response to comments 17 and 18 (Official Gazette, August 13, 1996) [Docket No: 950620162-6014-02] RIN 0651-AA75 ("Section 1.77 is permissive rather than mandatory. ... [T]he Office will not require any application to comply with the format set forth in 1.77")).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of *Batten, et al.* (U.S. Patent 6,269,437) and *Nickolls, et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,598,408).

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Claims 1 and 5, as amended, include pipeline registers, *the pipeline registers are adapted to provide a dedicated direct signal data signal connection between any two of the clusters.*

In Fig. 1 of the filed application, a clustered VLIW architecture with a full point-to-point connectivity topology according to a first embodiment is shown. The architecture includes four clusters, namely clusters A, B, C and D, which are fully connected to each other and an instruction fetch/dispatch unit IFD being connected to each cluster A-D via control connections paths CA-CD. Accordingly, there is always a dedicated direct data signal connection present between any two clusters with pipeline registers P arranged between each two clusters.

By contrast, Applicants have reviewed the references to *Batten, et al.* and *Nickolls, et al.* and have found no disclosure of at least the noted feature of claims 1 and 5. Moreover, Applicants note that the reference to *Parcerisa, et al.*, which is relied upon in the rejection of claim 2 may disclose point-to-point interconnects, but fails to disclose the connection from cluster to cluster via dedicated direct signal connections between any two of the clusters via pipeline registers as claimed. Rather, synchronous or asynchronous rings are disclosed.

Accordingly, because the applied art fails to disclose at least one feature of independent claim 1 and independent claim 5, a prima facie case of obviousness cannot be made based thereon. Thus, claims 1 and 5 are patentable over the applied art. Moreover, claims 2-4 and 6-8, which depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, are patentable at least for the same reasons as claims 1 and 5. Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Finally, the Office Action offers reasons for combining references in the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants silence on the propriety of these combinations is by no means indicative of their acquiescence thereto. Applicants reserve their right to address any issues regarding the propriety of these combinations in further correspondence as needed.

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Conclusion

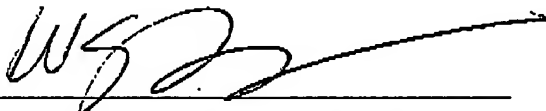
In view the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 50-0238 for any additional fees, including, but not limited to, the fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17.

If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of:

Phillips Electronics North America Corp.



by: William S. Francos (Reg. No. 38,456)

Date: March 15, 2007

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